

Salem Power Plant Revitalization Task Force - Decommissioning Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

2:00am – 4:00pm

EEA (100 Cambridge Street) 2nd Floor Conference Room A
Boston, MA 02114

Meeting Attendees:

Secretary Sullivan	EEA
Michael Rodrigues	Massachusetts Senate
Dan Burgess	EEA
Lauren Farrell	EEA
Barbara Kates-Garnick	EEA
Alexander Rittershaus	Office of Representative Keenan
Dan Dolan	NEPGA
Ron Gerwatowski	National Grid
Joel Wool	Clean Water Action
Michael Prokosch	Boston Climate Action Network
Jim Buckley	DPU, EFSB
Becky Smith	Clean Water Action
James Smith	Smith, Ruddock, & Hayes
Jim Ginnetti	EquiPower
Joe Dalton	GDF Suez
Sarah Kelley	Island Foundation
Erica Kreuter	HEG
Gary Moran	DEP
Gary Davis	EEA
John Beling	AGO
James Red Simpson	IBEW
Jeremy Spittle	Office of Senator Rodrigues
James McCaffrey	Sierra Club

Documents Discussed:

Agenda
Draft Legislation

Secretary Sullivan called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary Sullivan called the meeting to order and started the introductions. He noted this was the last meeting of the Decommissioning Subcommittee and thanked everyone for their hard work over the last year and a half.

Discussion and Completion of Final Report

Mr. Burgess noted that the anticipated completion date was moved from February 1 to February 11th due to scheduling conflicts and the nearly 800 comments that were received during the public comment period. He said the report was written based on feedback and the general themes that were presented to the Subcommittee. He continued that almost every member provided feedback when the draft report was sent out.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a summary of the discussion which took place; nor does this document attest to the completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information.

Mr. Burgess noted the report in discussion today includes overviews of the Subcommittee's process and of coal-fired generation in Massachusetts; recommendations such as continuing redevelopment studies, a potential decommissioning plan and follow up plan that considers community and owner interests, the potential of a community and working transition component; and lastly a conclusion that highlights lessons learned for future sites.

Secretary Sullivan opened the meeting up for discussion, questions, or edits before the final vote. Mr. Dolan said he does not have any edits but wants to give credit to the team for putting the report together. He said the key item in the final report is the recognition of the key rights of the property owners and the need to work with the host communities. Sen. Rodrigues said he wanted to thank everyone for the collaborative effort and level of communication. He noted that he represents the community of Somerset, which is still reeling from the closure of Brayton Point, which has caused a loss of jobs and impacted the local property tax. Sen. Rodrigues noted that some relief has been provided through RGGI funds but he would love to see the opportunity for repowering similar to the Salem plant. He also noted his concern with the above-ground infrastructure, mainly the cooling towers. He said that until the plant closes in 2017, there is time to draft legislation, if necessary. Lastly, Sen. Rodrigues said he supports the plan and would like to thank everyone for doing a good job striking a good balance.

Mr. Burgess noted that since the final report was sent out, one minor wording edit was made to the middle paragraph on page-8. Secretary Sullivan asked for any last comments before the final vote. Mr. McCaffrey said he would like to thank the group and entire process that allowed for robust public dialogue. He said he liked the discussion of workers and community protection in the final report but would like something more prescriptive and to hear more about the next steps. Lastly, he said he would continue to work on what is next and what can be done now. Mr. Wool said everyone should be aware of the financial crisis of the situation. He said that while there is time to plan between now and 2017, some people feel there is not time to wait.

Final Vote

Secretary Sullivan asked for any last comments or discussion. As chair, he motioned the final vote, Mr. Dolan seconded the vote, and all members were in favor. With that, Secretary Sullivan noted the final Salem Decommissioning Subcommittee Report is approved. He thanked the entire EEA team for all of their work and he thanked the rest of the committee and all of those people who submitted public comments. He also thanked the Legislature for allowing the Subcommittee to submit the final report behind schedule. Lastly, Secretary Sullivan noted the Decommissioning Subcommittee has completed their report and is relieved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18pm.